

PATENT
1422-0516P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: KUBOTA et al. Conf.: UNASSIGNED
Appl. No.: NEW Group: UNASSIGNED
Filed: February 5, 2002 Examiner: UNASSIGNED
For: DETERGENT PARTICLES

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

February 5, 2002

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

7. (Amended) The detergent particles according to claim 4 or 5, wherein the base particle comprises 20 to 90% by weight of the water-insoluble inorganic compound; 2 to 30% by weight of the water-soluble polymer; and 5 to 78% by weight of the water-soluble salt.

8. (Amended) The detergent particles according to claim 1, 2, 4 or 5, wherein the detergent particles comprise a uni-core detergent particle.

9. (Amended) A method for preparing the detergent particles as defined in claim 1, 2, 4 or 5, comprising the steps of:

Step (a): preparing a slurry containing a water-insoluble inorganic compound, a water-soluble polymer, and a water-soluble salt, wherein 60% by weight or more of water-soluble components including the water-soluble polymer and the water-soluble salt is dissolved in the slurry;

Step (b): spray-drying the slurry obtained in Step (a) to prepare base particles; and

Step (c): adding a surfactant to the base particles obtained in Step (b) to support the surfactant thereby.

10. (Amended) A detergent composition comprising the detergent particles as defined in claim 1, 2, 4 or 5 in an amount of 50% by weight or more.

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the present application. Claims 7-10 have been amended to correct improper multiple dependencies. No new matter is being added to the application.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John W. Bailey (Reg. 32,881) at the telephone number below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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JWB/end
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Attachments

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

The claims have been amended as follows:

7. (Amended) The detergent particles according to [any one of claims 4-6] claim 4 or 5, wherein the base particle comprises 20 to 90% by weight of the water-insoluble inorganic compound; 2 to 30% by weight of the water-soluble polymer; and 5 to 78% by weight of the water-soluble salt.

8. (Amended) The detergent particles according to [any one of claim 1 to 7] claim 1, 2, 4 or 5, wherein the detergent particles comprise a uni-core detergent particle.

9. (Amended) A method for preparing the detergent particles as defined in [any one of claims 1 to 8] claim 1, 2, 4 or 5, comprising the steps of:

Step (a): preparing a slurry containing a water-insoluble inorganic compound, a water-soluble polymer, and a water-soluble salt, wherein 60% by weight or more of water-soluble components including the water-soluble polymer and the water-soluble salt is dissolved in the slurry;

Step (b): spray-drying the slurry obtained in Step (a) to prepare base particles; and

Step (c): adding a surfactant to the base particles obtained in Step (b) to support the surfactant thereby.

10. (Amended) A detergent composition comprising the detergent particles as defined in [any one of claims 1 to 8] claim 1, 2, 4 or 5 in an amount of 50% by weight or more.